

out off. We shall find reasons for concluding that the effects of environment may become hereditary in their influence upon physical features, or upon the relative strength of the innate impulses which constitute character; but that, when they are merely concerned with the formation of habits—although these habits may be the most important element in civilization—their influence does not extend beyond the generation that is immediately touched by it. An English baby is born with a complexion and a character which it owes in some measure to the country of its forefathers; but it is not innately more disposed towards the artificial usages of civilization than the child of a family of Esquimaux.

Environment and the individual

We frequently style ourselves "creatures of circumstances" if, speaking literally, circumstances do not make us. it is assuredly true that they can mar us entirely. We are absolutely dependent upon supplies of food: if they are inadequate the noblest genius may wither in fruitlessness. a healthy people may be enfeebled. may indeed. be destroyed in millions. as during an Indian famine. There is good evidence to show that food may affect sex development: a bee may become a female or a neuter worker according to the food which it receives in its larval state. The colour of canaries may be deepened into orange by the admixture of some cayenne pepper with

their seed. We cannot endure
extreme cold :
yet a certain chilliness of air
undoubtedly has a
bracing effect upon our energy. A dry
climate is
exhilarating; a damp climate
depressing. The
diseases, which are so masterful an
element in
our environment, not only reduce the
length of
human life, but mar the physique of
those whose